

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

***FEBRUARY 14, 2006***

## ***MT. VERNON MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE***

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 8, 2006, **PEREZ M. RUSSELL**, age 27, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was named in a two count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois.

**RUSSELL** was charged with two counts of distribution of "crack cocaine."

With respect to each count, **RUSSELL** faces a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and a term of supervised release of at least 3 years.

*An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing illegal guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.